

north, where are the celebrated gold-mines in the Black Hills of Dakota.

On the 4th, at half-past three P.M., we reached Sherman, the highest elevation on the road,—8,235 feet. So gradual is the ascent from Omaha, that you would hardly suspect that you were going up hill; and the region over which you pass looks not at all like “crossing the Rocky Mountains.” The highest grade between Cheyenne and Sherman is eighty-eight feet per mile. The whole distance is bare of trees, has no very steep appearance, and the land is only valuable for grazing. The distance from Omaha to Sherman is 549 miles, and from Sherman to San Francisco 1,318 miles.

Sherman is a place of wild and lonely desolation, in the Territory of Wyoming. It is named after the distinguished general. On a high point south of the station, a monument is rising to honor the memory of Oakes Ames, one of the most enterprising men whom this country has produced. He was cruelly maligned, and hastened to his grave by the calumnies with which he was pursued in connection with the completion of a colossal highway to the Pacific, which has done more to perpetuate the union of our vast empire than the greatest battle which was fought.

Seventy miles south-west of Sherman is